

Annual Report

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Westhoughton
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the health and sanitation of the Urban District of Westhoughton during the year 1909.

On the whole I think the general statistics contrast favourably with those of former years. The general death rate, the respiratory death rate, and the Infantile rate are well below the average of the last 10 years, and show an improvement on last year although against this must be reported a slight decrease in the birth rate.

The general health of the district has been up to the average in spite of inclement weather. The area of the district is 5,554 acres and contains 19 miles of highway. The geological formation is boulder clay over coal measures.

The population estimated to the middle of 1909 is 16,100 equal to a density of 2.8 per acre.

Year.	Number of Houses	Population	Average per House	Average per Acre
1907	3072	15956	5.1	2.8
1908	3104	15986	5.1	2.8
1909	3118	16100	5.1	2.8

Summary of Statistics :

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Respiratory Death Rate	Rate of deaths under 1 year per 1000 births
1909	28.8	12.1	.84	.43	2.8	137
1908	30.96	16.8	1.68	.43	4.81	155
Mean of 10 years. (1899-1908)	31.62	15.6	2.4	.54	3.6	148
Increase or decrease on :—						
(a) Prev's yr.	—2.16—	4.7	— .84		— 2.01	— 18
(b) 10 yrs avg	—2.82—	3.5	—1.56	— .11	— .8	— 11

Births.—465 births were registered during 1909 equal to a birth rate of 28·8 which is below 10 years average and a decrease on last year. Of the births 233 were males and 232 were females. The average for the district during the last 10 years is 31·62 while the County Urban birth rate for 1908 was 25·05 and that of England and Wales 26·05. There are no returns for illegitimate births.

Year.	Total Births	Males.	Females	Birth Rate	County Urban Birth Rate.	England and Wales.
1905	476	244	232	30·7	25·22	27·2
1906	459	235	224	29·1	25·11	27·0
1907	450	239	211	28·2	24·47	26·3
1908	495	250	245	30·96	25·05	26·5
1909	465	233	232	28·8	—	—

Deaths.—196 deaths were registered in the district (including four which occurred in Public Institutions outside the district). Of the deaths 102 were males and 94 females. This equals a death rate of 21·1 per 1000 of the population, against a rate of 16·8 last year and a ten years average of 15·6.

Year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Total Deaths	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	County Urban Death Rate.	Death Rate for England & Wales.
1905	61	226	14·6	2·1	14·5	15·2
1906	46	185	11·7	1·52	14·8	15·4
1907	54	198	12·4	1·8	14·5	15·0
1908	77	269	16·8	1·68	14·6	14·7
1909	64	196	12·1	·86	—	—

Infantile Mortality.—During the past year there have been registered 64 deaths of children under one year as against an average of 70 for the last 10 years. This is a decrease of 13 on last year and corresponds to a rate of 137 per 1000 births as compared with 155 last year and a ten years average of 148.

One-third of these deaths were due to premature birth or Marasmus, and as pointed out last year I think that here as in other industrial districts, the employment of women in factories, &c., is to a certain extent responsible for the remaining deaths, almost half were due to Respiratory diseases, the explanation of which is probably to be found in the absence of real summer weather, and an unusually cold and severe autumn. On the other hand the same cause has no doubt been the main factor in causing a reduction in the number of deaths under one year due to Diarrhoea from 8 deaths last year to 1 death this year.

Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births :—

Year.	Westhoughton	County Urban	England & Wales
1905	128	137	128
1906	100	143	133
1907	120	129	118
1908	155	136	121
1909	137	—	—
Avg. 10 yrs. (1899-1908)	148	151	139

Zymotic Disease.—The Zymotic death rate shows a reduction when compared with last year, even after deducting from last year's rate the deaths due to enteritis, which were then included under the heading "Diarrhœa." This is very satisfactory as the number of cases of Zymotic disease actually notified was in excess of last year. The deaths were evenly distributed amongst the seven principal epidemic diseases.

				Small-Pox	Measels	Scarlet Fever,	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Fever	Diarrhœa	Total
YEAR.											
1909—Westhoughton Zymotic Death-rate				Nil.	·25	·06	·18	·06	·25	·06	·86
1908— " " "				Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	·50	Nil.	Nil.	1·18	1·68
" County Urban "				·0005	·18	·17	·16	·24	·12	·54	1·45
" England Wales "				·0003	·22	·08	·15	·27	·07	·59	1·29

The 14 deaths were distributed in the following wards :—

Disease.						Cent'l	North	South	East	Hult'n	Total
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	4
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup						...	...	2	1	...	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
						4	2	4	3	1	14

Infectious Diseases.—70 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year as compared with 55 last year, and an average for the last 5 years of 82.

1909	1903	1907	1906	1905	Average
70	55	102	83	103	82

Twenty-eight out of the 70 cases were removed to Hospital. The district has again been quite free from epidemic form of the notifiable diseases. The value of pathological examination of specimens by Professor Delepine (of Manchester University) has frequently been emphasised.

DISEASE.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	WARDS					Total	RE'D TO H'PL.					Total
														Central	North	South	East	Hulton		Central	North	South	East	Hulton	
Scarlet Fever	1	3	1	8	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	24	2	3	14	1	4	24	2	2	6	...	3	13
Diph. & Mem.Cr'up	1	2	3	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	1	12	4	3	3	1	1	12	1	3	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas.....	1	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	3	2	...	...	12	5	1	1	4	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	2	4	1	4	...	...	...	3	5	1	...	21	9	3	8	1	...	21	4	2	4	1	...	11
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	9	12	10	8	5	1	1	5	10	3	2	70	20	11	26	7	6	70	7	7	10	1	3	28

Visits have been paid to the various houses where the infectious cases occurred and their sanitary condition inspected. The importance of isolation has been pointed out to those in charge and disinfectants supplied. After termination or removal of the cases to Hospital the houses have been carefully disinfected by spraying disinfectant solution and by means of Sulphur fumes.

Small-Pox.—No cases of Small-Pox have occurred during 1909. The special Hospital at Roger's farm is in a satisfactory condition. It is constantly heated and prepared for immediate admission of cases. There is accomodation for 12 patients.

Measles.—The district has been rather seriously attacked by measles during the year. The disease was at first limited to the Chequerbent district when it was necessary to close the Infant Department of the School for 2 weeks in mid-summer. Then spreading to the central part of the township it gradually became general in the district. The disease was of a somewhat severe type and considering this I think the death rate for measles has been remarkably low.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-four cases of Scarlet Fever were reported as against 15 last year. 13 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There was one death from this disease

Enteric Fever.—Twenty-one cases of this disease have been notified, as compared with 18 last year, and 14 in 1907. Four of these cases occurred in one house in South Ward. Careful investigation has failed to point out the primary source of infection in all cases, but in one street where the disease has been rather prevalent sanitary improvements have been carried out in the ashpits, and a portion of the back street reconstructed. The conversion of middens into water closets—a most

important work—is proceeding slowly, but several owners have been communicated with regarding the conversion. 4 deaths were due to Enteric Fever.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Twelve cases have been notified, exactly the same as last year, and being again a great advance on the 55 cases of 1907. Of the 12 cases 4 were removed to hospital. The relative death rate is distinctly lower than last year, when 8 of the cases ended fatally as compared with 3 this year.

Diarrhœa.—Only 1 death was certified as due to Diarrhœa—a great advance on the 7 deaths certified last year. As previously pointed out the weather during the summer being cold and wet was probably responsible for a great part of the decrease, although I think a good work is being carried on in the district by our District Nurses and the Sick Nursing Association, better hygienic conditions in many homes being the result.

Year	Westhoughton Diarrhœa Death rate	County Urban Diarrhœa Death rate	England & Wales Diarrhœa Death rate
1906	·95	1·12	·87
1907	·62	·45	·29
1908	1·18	·59	·50
1909	·01	—	—

Respiratory Disease.—Fifty-three deaths were certified as due to respiratory diseases of various forms. 28 of these deaths were due to pneumonia ; 7 deaths were due to phthisis—a similar record to last year and well below the average rate for this district.

As stated in last year's report our cold, wintry weather, the clay subsoil, and the occupations in the coal mines are, I think, mainly responsible for our high Respiratory death rate.

Year	Westhoughton Respiratory Death rate.	County Urban Respiratory Death rate	Westhoughton Phthisis Death rate	County Urban Phthisis Death rate
1905	3·1	2·66	·45	·87
1906	3·05	2·6	·44	·89
1907	3·2	2·99	·62	·95
1908	4·81	2·59	·43	·87
1909	2·8	—	·43	—

House Accomodation.—Fourteen houses have been erected during the year, a decrease on last year.

The type of houses now built is up to the improved standard of the last few years. The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Sanitary Work.—During the year house-to-house visitation has been carried out as usual.

From the report of the Sanitary Inspector it will be seen that in a number of cases houses which were found to be defective in various ways have been repaired and where possible rendered more sanitary.

Dairies and Cowsheds as usual have been regularly inspected and continue to be in a satisfactory condition.

A case of Anthrax occurring in a cow at a farm in Hulton Ward was reported. The circumstances were at once investigated, and thanks to the prompt sanitary precautions taken by our Inspector, there was no further spread of the disease.

The Schools have also been visited, and these as well as their sanitary conveniences were in the majority of cases satisfactory.

Scavenging has been efficiently carried out during the year. Few complaints have been received.

The Ashpits are emptied every 4 weeks except in the case of a few which are emptied more frequently. The refuse is deposited on tips and used by farmers on the land

Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses have been inspected and were found to be in good sanitary condition.

Water Supply.—The district is still supplied with mainland upland water by the Bolton Corporation. The supply during the year has been generally satisfactory.

Chemical examination of the water has been made from time to time, once or twice slight impurity has been detected, but each time the defect has been immediately remedied.

The total number of houses supplied with water by the Council is 2,924, the Bolton Corporation supplying the remainder in Hulton Ward district.

The total consumption for the year ending December 31st, 1909, was 65,739,000 gallons, giving an estimated consumption of 11.1 gallons per head per day.

There is no river pollution in the district.

Sewerage.—The district is served by six sections of sewers, and the sewage is treated by chemicals and lime precipitation and irrigation.

The first section drains the whole of Daisy Hill (60 acres) and Leigh Road, and is delivered at Roger's Farm. The second section drains Wearish Lane, Hart Common, Market Street, Church Street, Bolton Road, Park Road, Manchester Road, and part of Chorley Road. The sewage is delivered at Roger's Farm.

The sewage having first been mixed with sulphate of iron, and then with lime, is led into precipitating tanks, each of a capacity of 250,000 gallons. After precipitation the effluent is filtered through coke breeze and then led on to the land. The effluent has been analysed and reported satisfactory.

The sewage from the third section is delivered at Dog Holes Farm (21 acres) and is led on the land and treated by irrigation alone.

The sewage from the fourth section (Hart Common and Marsh Brook) is delivered at Marsh Brook Farm (14 acres) and treated by irrigation.

The fifth section draining the Hulton part of the district is connected with the sewer of the first section.

The sixth section which comprises Hulton Lane district, is, by arrangement drained into the sewers of Bolton Corporation, and is treated by them at a yearly charge of 10s. per house.

The sewerage system has worked very well during the year.

Regular inspection of the precipitating tanks at Roger's Farm has been carried out during the year. The effluent has been analysed and found to be quite satisfactory.

Factories and Workplaces.—These have been regularly inspected during the year. Over 70 visits were made. In a few instances sanitary defects were discovered by the Inspector, but in all cases these were speedily remedied

The sanitary condition of the domestic workplaces has again been satisfactory.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM H. LEIGH.

January 31st, 1910.

Annual Report

—OF THE—

Sanitary Inspector.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Westhoughton
Urban District Council.**

JANUARY, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the various sanitary duties which were carried out by me during the year 1909.

Eighty-four visits have been made to infectious cases, of which there have been Seventy notified during the year. This is a slight increase over the number notified last year. Twenty-eight cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, of which I am sorry to say two proved fatal. There were two cases in the Hospital at the end of the year. The houses in all the cases were thoroughly disinfected, and in many cases beautified throughout, and I am pleased to report that in no single instance have I experienced any difficulty in prevailing upon the owners to do this.

Again, I am pleased to Report that the patients and their relatives have expressed to me their very great appreciation of, and gratefulness for the kindness and consideration they have received from the Matron and Staff of the Hospital.

Twenty-eight privy middens have been converted to water closets, fourteen of which were at two Schools in the district. Twelve water closets have been fixed in new houses, and I am glad to say the water carriage system is now enforced in all new houses.

I have prepared a Special Report on the sanitary condition of the Township, and also as to the appliances available for disinfecting purposes, as well as to the number of privy middens in the centre of the Town that first require attention for conversion to water closets. These are to be dealt with by a Special Meeting to be held in January, 1910.

Fifty-three privies and ashpits have been rebuilt or repaired. Thirty-three drains have been opened up, cleansed, and relaid. Six waste water closets have been unstopped. Twenty-seven back yards have been flagged or paved. Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with. Visits have been paid to the foregoing as the work proceeded, and the same has been strictly supervised.

Seventeen Notices (under Sec. 41, P.H.A., 1875) have been served, in order to have an examination made of the drains, and in each case the drains have been found very defective and condemned, and steps have been taken for the relaying of the drains.

Statutory notices have been served where necessary for the abatement of nuisances, but in most cases these have been abated by a request made personally or by letter.

In July I seized 244lbs. of unsound Strawberries from two Hawkers in the street, these were condemned by the Medical Officer and a Justice, as unfit for food and were destroyed, the Council ordered a prosecution and the defendants were fined £2 and cost or 14 days.

Smoke observations have been taken at different times during the year, and the worst offenders have been written to by the Council, and warned that steps would be taken for the abatement of the nuisance.

A case of Anthrax occurred in October at a farm on the extreme boundary, the farmer had only had the cow a day when it began to be ill, the following day he stuck the cow in the shippon, and disposed of the carcass to the Knackers where it was found to have suffered from Anthrax.

This necessitated the thorough disinfection of the drains, &c., as well as the cowshed, this was carried out under my supervision, and no further case has occurred in the district.

Visits have been made periodically to Dairies and Cowsheds, Workshops, Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, &c., and in some cases orders to Limewash have been given, but on the whole these were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

As I mentioned in my last Report the back streets of the Town were receiving attention by a Special Committee, I am pleased to report that the Surveyor is now preparing plans, &c., for the paving of a number of back streets and open yards, these will shortly be placed before the Council, when I trust the necessary steps will be taken for the work to be proceeded with as early as convenient.

The removal of house refuse is again let to farmers by contract, with the exception of two districts, in which this is done by the Council's own carts and men.

The contract work, (the terms of which are for every ashpit to be emptied at least once a month and ashbins weekly) has been done fairly satisfactory during the year, except in one instance in which I had to report one of the contractors for not complying with the terms of his agreement, the contract was cancelled by the Council and a penalty imposed, and a fresh contract entered into with another farmer.

As usual there is much work of an advisory and supervising nature which it is impossible to summarise, and it is very satisfactory to note that owners and others have been very willing to comply with any sanitary improvements which I have asked for or suggested, so that although I have obtained orders from the Council for nineteen Statutory Notices, I have only been compelled to serve two, as the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving the notices, as I find that many people will do more by persuasion than by compulsion.

I also beg to thank the Council for their help and co-operation in all the foregoing, and for their kindness during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. J. A. GREEN, A.I.S.E., A.R.San.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

